

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1897.

OUR PLATFORM.

During the past day or two the New York World and the New York Journal have both been discussing the probable action of the Virginia Democracy with reference to the Chicago platform.

The World is informed that there is a great controversy going on in this State over the matter, and would have us steer clear of national politics. The Journal, on the other hand, urges us to stand by the national platform of our party.

Let not either of our New York contemporaries disturb itself. It is almost as certain as if it were already done that the convention, which is to assemble in the course of a few months to nominate a Democratic State ticket will endorse and reaffirm our national platform—and this is language that will admit of no uncertainty.

In the first place, action such as that is usual in Virginia. But if it were not usual it would be necessary now, because a policy of evasion or silence would be misunderstood. An overwhelming majority of the Democrats of the Old Dominion unreservedly approve the Chicago platform, and the free silver plank in particular, and they will insist upon it that they are entitled to draft the platform, and that the minority are equally bound to abide by the decision of the majority.

A year ago the voice of our party in this State, as uttered at Staunton, was unequivocally in favor of free silver, and we cannot but believe that free silver was stronger in Virginia now than it was then, or was in the month of November last.

The argument is being advanced, however, that national questions have no place in a State election. But our people do not look at the question in that light. We have referred to the custom of our State conventions endorsing the national platform; but more—the senators and delegates to be chosen in November are at the coming session to elect a successor to Senator Daniel. It appears that he will have a walk-over, but it is the purpose of the party to make assurance double sure, and commit every Democratic legislator who may be elected in November to the free silver doctrine. But not only will all the legislators elected in November have to vote for Major Daniel's successor, but the senators then chosen will have to vote for Mr. Martin's successor two years later. So the argument that "national questions have no place in the pending canvass" will not hold; nor is it made by any one, so far as we know, who zealously supports Bryan last year. For these reasons, and for other reasons that might be advanced, it is fully expected that the next Democratic State convention will endorse and reaffirm the Chicago platform.

It cannot do otherwise; it will have no desire to do otherwise. And in support of such a platform and the candidates that may be placed thereon, we may confidently count, not only upon the 150,000 voters who last fall voted for Bryan, but upon thousands of other Democrats who were persuaded or induced to withhold their votes from our ticket last year.

So we conclude that in the nature of things the next State Democratic convention must and will endorse and reaffirm the platform of our party adopted by the National Convention held at Chicago last June.

NEW YORK AND RICHMOND.

New York is now Greater New York, or at least will be after the 1st of January next, when the consolidation provided for by law goes into effect. Then it will be the second greatest city in the world—London only being ahead of it.

Thus will the pride of our New York friends be vastly gratified. But London will be ahead of New York in having a lord mayor, as well as in other respects. To be sure the next mayor of New York is to be a lord mayor, yet, almost imperious, powers, but he will not have the title or the official costume that the head officer of London is authorized to wear.

However, to do our Gothamite friends full justice, we must say they do not so much concern themselves about London as about Chicago. Indeed, we must doubt if the Greater New York bill ever would have been pushed and passed had not Chicago gone into the cornfields and rural ways and gobbled up the population

and territory with which to set-up rivalry with New York.

This unseemly action upon the part of Chicago greatly aroused the wrath of the New Yorkers. The result is seen in the formation of the new corporation, by which the city of Brooklyn (notwithstanding its population of a million) has been joined out and will henceforth be known only as a borough.

The consolidation act was probably a wise one; but there are two opinions as to that. There was much opposition to it, and it could not have passed the General Assembly at this time but that Tom Platt decreed that it should.

New York has now so successfully distanced Chicago we cannot believe that the latter city will any longer struggle for supremacy. "But there are others," other cities that will wish to make the best possible showing in the census reports for 1900, and these will do all they can to annex contiguous population and territory. The result will be that those cities that do nothing in the way of annexing will be left even farther behind than they were by the census reports of 1890.

What will Richmond do? Are we to make no effort to increase our size and importance? Are we to continue to furnish a mart for cities, towns, villages, and hamlets that may grow up about us?

To do so would be foolish policy upon our part. In the first place, such a policy would cause us to lose rank in the list of American cities. In the next, it would be unwise, because it would be as if we offered inducements to business-men to locate enterprises just outside of our incorporation limits. Thus those business-men would escape city taxation, yet have nearly all the advantages of our city.

In this matter Richmond has been very slow to see where her interest lies. As yet we notice no sign of awakening from her self-satisfied dream, but it will not be so always. No; the time will come when we shall find ourselves forced to act. And then we'll go at it in a whirlwind of eagerness and excitement. Therein we shall duplicate our record in the matter of retrenchment and reform. For ten years or more it had been known and published that we were living beyond our income. Yet no attention was paid to the fact; and of course no action was taken; but "all on a sudden" the discovery was made that we were on the brink of disaster. Then a great outcry was heard, and a precipitate movement was made. So, too, we venture to say it will be when the public mind is at last aroused to the fact that Richmond is providing a business place for thousands of urban people who do not properly contribute to our expenses.

In that day and generation there will be a loud demand for the annexation of Manchester and her suburbs and all the suburbs on our side of the river.

Would that this could be heard before the next census is taken, but we dare not hope that it will be.

THE TARIFF AND REVENUE.

As we said yesterday, there is a big gap between the Senate tariff bill and the statute book, and there is no telling what compromises may be made before the two houses of Congress close that gap by reaching a final agreement. But whether the amendments proposed by the Senate Finance Committee stand or not, the bill as it came from that committee, strikingly emphasizes the hypocrisy of the claim that the object of the Dingley bill was to produce revenue.

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WATER-METERS.

In the following letter a thoughtful friend of ours discusses the water-meter question, and makes objections that we undertake to answer:

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I have noticed all the articles published in regard to water-meters, and I see that it is the intention to levy a new tax. The object of the meter is to measure the amount of water used by the takers, so that they may be charged for what they use, not what they do not use. In my own case there are but two in my family; there is no washing of clothes, and I pay \$1 per quarter for water, whether I use the water or not. Am careful in the use of water, and do not waste it. Now I think it unjust to charge me for any more water than I use, and I think, in justice to those who are careful and do not waste the water, that the same rule should apply to those who take gas—let them pay for what they use.

In the winter-time I use very little water, while in summer I use more. I have put in a stop-cock for the purpose of cutting off water and draining pipes to keep them from freezing, and the rates proposed will be very unjust to the small takers of water. I do not care for myself, but there are others who will be unjustly imposed upon if such an ordinance is imposed. I know of one who has gone to the expense of putting in meters, and whose water bill is less than 67 cents per month, yet they use all the water they want, not denying themselves a drop. If 15 cents per month they will not pay the city, charge 20, but let us all pay for what we use; do not charge those who have been careful for what they do not get. The theory has been advanced by some that unless you charge a special amount, there are some people who are so stingy they will not use water enough to keep themselves clean. From my standpoint, it looks as if the Council were afraid to try water meters, and they would use that they wish to levy a new tax on people who can ill afford to pay it.

WATER.

The object of the meter is to prevent waste. The object of the minimum rate is not to charge more than the present ordinance rate—namely, 67 cents per month for a hydrant and closet, but to allow a certain quantity of water for use for these fixtures, so that good sanitary conditions may prevail. This rate is not unjust to the small taker, where the city goes to the expense of putting in a meter, but is a just rate, alike to large and small consumers.

As stated, the price for a hydrant and closet by the present ordinance is 67 cents. Now the city proposes to put in a meter at its own cost, and the consumer may add a bath and other closets if he chooses, and provided he does not use more than the 4500 gallons per month, he will get these additional conveniences without extra charge. And then every consumer will be on exactly the same basis of charge. The average number of persons per family is estimated to be five, and this quantity of water is regarded as sufficient for a family of that size for domestic and sanitary purposes both.

The present ordinance (section 14, chapter 27) reads:

"In any case not herein provided for, water rent shall be at such rate as may be fixed by the Superintendent of the Water-Works, subject to the Committee's approval; and the Committee, in its discretion, may introduce into premises water-meters, and charge a rate not provided, however, that in no case where a meter is used shall the annual charge be less than \$2 per annum for the rent of the meter, and meter rates for the quantity of water used."

As will be seen, then, the object of the proposed new ordinance is, to do away with the tax of \$2 annual rent for the meter, and allow a full and abundant use of water, and fix the charge at the same ordinance rate for the fixtures (hydrant and closet). It would therefore appear that the object of the ordinance is in no sense intended to "increase" the burden of tax, and if the ordinance be passed, the charge will not be greater than the present one, except where a person either wilfully or negligently wastes the water.

It should be noted that these are the charges for water where the city furnishes and puts in the meter.

And now the slow-going monitor Teror has been in collision with a yacht, which it injured considerably. Possibly it is trying to live up to its name.

We trust there is no suspicion that the Dispatch fires are for advertising purposes only.

ST. PATRICK'S BENEFICIAL SOC. The Organization Holds Its Annual Meeting and Elects Officers.

At a regular meeting of St. Patrick's Beneficial and Social Society, held at its rooms, corner of Twenty-third and Grace streets, Wednesday evening, the following officers were elected:

Rev. Father Donnelly, spiritual director; T. J. Sheehy, president; Robert Andrews, vice-president; John N. Seld, financial secretary; John F. Sullivan, recording secretary; T. S. Edgar, treasurer; August Buckner, sergeant-at-arms.

Executive Committee—John P. Make, P. C. Martin, and W. E. Byron. Library Committee—John J. Blake, John F. Sullivan, Thomas Shea, M. L. Smith, T. S. Edgar, Edward Kalin, and F. H. Miller.

Room Committee—John J. Sullivan, Robert Marks, James Hogan, Thomas O'Gorman, Thomas Welsh, John Brophy, Frank Solari, Walter Lowery, Joseph Smith, and Thomas Doherty.

Press Committee—W. E. Byron, George H. Parater, and John J. Campodonico.

The society, which is composed of young men from every parish in Richmond, is one of the most popular Catholic organizations in the city. It is in a flourishing condition, having a very large membership, which is rapidly increasing. Twenty-five applicants having been initiated during the month of April. The rooms of the society having become a little the worse for wear, a handsome sum has been appropriated for the purpose of refurnishing and beautifying them, and as soon as they are put in proper shape the members will continue with their entertainments, musicales, card parties, &c., in which their friends will be invited to attend and participate. The society meets every Wednesday night at their rooms, corner Twenty-sixth and Grace streets.

Travelling on Their Wheels.

George Mutter and J. Sutherland, two wheelmen from New York, who are touring through the country on bicycles, passed through Richmond yesterday en route for Atlanta, New Orleans, and San Francisco.

Dr. Jett Will Recover.

Rev. Robert C. Jett, of Staunton, who was operated on for appendicitis at St. Luke's Hospital by Drs. McGuire and Henckel, of Staunton, is doing nicely, the operation having been entirely successful.

Property Transfers.

Richmond: Robert S. Boshart and wife to John H. Powell, 71 feet on south side Grace street, 60-1-2 feet east of Foushee, reserving annual rent of \$20.

G. J. Hunt, Thomas E. Starks, and their wives to Charles H. Epps, 25 feet on

south side Hanover street, 71-7-12 feet east of Lombardy, \$2,000.
A. Oppenheimer and wife to Judson B. Wood, 21-1-2 feet on Main street, southwest corner Beech, \$6,000.
John H. Powell and wife to Robert S. Boshart, 71 feet on south side Grace street, 60-1-2 feet east of Foushee, \$10,000.
Henrico: American Home Building and Loan Association to Otis H. Russell, 97-1-4 acres on Three-Chopped road, about seven miles northwest of Richmond, \$1,700.
Cecil & Miller, special commissioners, to C. B. Branner, lot 4 in block 2, Barton Heights, \$122.
Same to Rudolph Kastelberg, Jr., lots 21 and 22 in block 2, adjacent sub-division, northern, 25 feet of lot 3 in block 5, and western, 60 feet of lots 11 and 12 in block 2, Barton Heights, \$300.
T. C. Redd and others, trustees, to Epiphany church's trustees, lot 1 in block 27, Barton Heights.

MORE BAPTISTS TO WILMINGTON. Large Delegation of Richmonders Left Yesterday.

A large delegation of Richmond Baptists left for Wilmington yesterday, to attend the convention, which meets there to-day.

Among those in the party were Rev. H. A. Bagby, pastor of Calvary Baptist church; President F. W. Boatwright, of Richmond College; Rev. Dr. George Cooper, pastor of the First Baptist church; Rev. Dr. A. E. Dickinson, editor of the Religious Herald; Rev. J. S. Dill, pastor of Venable-Street Baptist church; Rev. Dr. J. C. Hiden, pastor of Grove-Avenue Baptist church; Rev. J. B. Hutson, pastor of Pine-Street Baptist church; Rev. J. H. Pitt, of the Religious Herald; Rev. Dr. Thornhill, of Manchester; Revs. J. L. Harrison, J. O. Kirk, L. M. Mercer, H. L. Quarles, Joel T. Tucker, and Messrs. William Elyson and T. H. Ellett, and Rev. Dr. R. J. Williams, secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

Visit Lu Lu Temple.

Several members from Acca Temple, Mystic Shrine, visited Lu Lu Temple, in Philadelphia, on Wednesday night. Mr. George J. Freedy, who returned yesterday morning, said the delegation was handsomely entertained, and all enjoyed a delightful time.

Lu Lu is the wealthiest Temple in the country, and is presided over by Potentate Phil C. Shaffer, who is well known here, and who also sat at the head of the banquet table. The Temple numbers 2,300 members; has an Arab patrol numbering fifty men in handsome silk costumes, and a brass band consisting of forty men, besides an excellent quartet.

Organizing a Stock Company.

Mr. A. M. Tyler, of Richmond, the inventor of the sash-fastener which was awarded the prize in the March competition by the Messrs. Wolferburn & Co., patent solicitors, of Washington, is organizing a stock company for the manufacture of the device. A large number of people have applied for stock, and all subscribers will meet to-day and organize, after which a charter will be applied for. The company will occupy a factory in Richmond, and will start to work almost immediately.

The Ambulance Called.

The ambulance was called to the rear of Meosta's confectionery yesterday morning about 10 o'clock to attend Randolph Strange, a colored man employed there, who was taken with an apoplectic fit. Dr. Nuckols responded to the call and treated the man, and took him to his home at 216 east Byrd street.

Well-Named.

(Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.) "The month of May is very appropriately named," remarked the youth to his friend.

"In what regard?"

"Because its weather is so uncertain."

"How does the name May apply to uncertain weather?"

"Well, it may be hot or it may be cold, it may be wet or it may be dry."

A Sympathetic Judge.

(Atlanta Constitution.)

"I make whiskey," said the moonshiner, "to make shoes for my little children."

The judge seemed touched, for he had children of his own. "I sympathize with you," he said, "and I am going to send you to the Ohio Penitentiary, where you can follow the shoe business for two years."

Why He Went.

(Yonkers Statesman.)

"Do you go to school my little man?" asked the smiling visitor.

"Naw," drawled the hopeful; "I'm sent."

Little Feet.

(Philadelphia Times.)

Two little feet so small that both may

In one caressing hand;

Two tender feet upon the untrodden floor

Of life's mysterious labyrinth

Those two white feet along the doubtful future

Must be a woman's load;

Alas! since woman has the heaviest burden

And walks the hardest road.

Love, for awhile, will make the path be-

fore smooth, and fair;

Will cut away the thistles, letting only

The roses bloom there;

But when the mother's watchful eyes are

shrouded

Away from the sight of men,

And these two little feet are left without

her guiding,

Who shall direct them then?

Will they go stumbling blindly in the

darkness

Of sorrow's fearful shades?

Or find the upland slopes of peace and

beauty?

Will the sunlight never fade?

Oh, who may read the future? For this

sweetheart small

We want all blessings sweet;

And pray that He who feeds the crying

ravens

Will guide the baby's feet.

THE UNUSUAL SALE
OF
ALL-WOOL
PANTS at \$1

as SURPRISE SPECIAL SALE No. 32 continues at THE GLOBE until the doors close to-morrow night. Eighteen different kinds, made with French waistband and trimmed in elegant style.

OUR MEN'S SUITS at \$5

demonstrate our ability to sell the newest, brightest, and best garments at unparalleled bargain prices.

TO THE MOTHER who has never visited our Children's Department we wish to say that the best the market affords is here in everything pertaining to Juvenile attire. Ask to see the All-Wool Black and Blue Cheviot Suits at \$1.48; the Light Mixed Cassimeres at \$2; The Black Tibbets at \$2—that's all.

CONVINCE YOURSELF by cold, solid investigation what our SHOE DEPARTMENT is doing. The result